

Tumacacori Tales




Storytelling is important to the O'odham people. It's entertaining and a fun way to remember vital lessons from parents and grandparents. These stories typically feature local animals (although their actions might sound a lot like things people do!)


Help the storyteller.



Say the O'odham name when you get to each symbol.


The O'odham Story of Ca Kai Choo and Bun


 is the home of  and .  often played tricks on .




One time they took some of his body fat while he slept.  awoke and was angry!



He chased the  but they flew to safety into their little holes along the .

 went to the first hole and reached in. He grabbed the first  and growled, "Are you the one who did this to me?" A tiny peep, "No! Try the next hole,"

was heard. And so  went from hole to hole until he came to the last one. "Was it

you?" Again a tiny peep, "No! Try the next hole."  stuck his paw into the next

hole full of  !  howled with pain as the  ran away with glee and

laughter. Again  had gotten the best of  their worst enemy!

—As passed down to Nathan Allen from the Akimel O'odham Nation



Tohono (toe ooh no)
desert



Bun (bahn)
coyote



Jurum (ju ru m)
bear



Ca Kai Choo
(kah hey choo)
quail



Akimel (ahkimer)
river



Hanum
(ha num)
Cholla